TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

ESTABLISHED 1892

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Robinson ..... *Editors and Publishers*

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A MIRACLE

What can almost be termed a miracle has occurred in the United States since October of 1957. Then, stunned as we were by Russian Sputniks, we vowed to do everything in the power of the United States to get us back into the rockets and missiles race.

However, nine months later, we have the statement of Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy that there is waste and duplication in our rocket and missiles effort.

If this is not startling enough, when seriously considered, there are several other things which constitute near-miracles. For one thing, we have continued to concentrate our defense industry around the large centers — in the best possible location for enemy purposes. Modern-day arms dropped on U. S. defense and industrialization centers would cause more havoc than in any other country on earth.

More than that, we have resisted suggestions from several mature and respected study groups, suggestions that we should build underground shelters for the population. The task is so staggering, and would cost so many billions of dollars, that we have turned the request down, and we are, instead, ignoring the obvious need for massive underground shelters.

And, if this were not enough, it is obvious to all those who study the situation that the Administration has been unable to accelerate radically the nation's military build-up, in spite of the unfavorable situation which was brought home to us with such impact last October.

These are the incredible mistakes which democracies make.

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NO. 1 HEALTH PROBLEM

If someone should ask you what the country's number one health problem is, what answer would you give? If you gave any other than "mental health," you would be missing the mark, since mental health is the nation's top health problem. It is a greatly misunderstood problem, one which we in this community should stop and think about.

One in every ten persons in the country is in need of some sort of treatment for an emotional or mental disorder, and one in twenty will spend part of his life in a mental institution. Didn't know the problem was so close to home, did you? Though we sometimes seek to dodge the issue, and hide the facts, being reluctant to talk about friends or relatives mentally ill, the issue is the very same one as that posed by physical sickness.

There is no disgrace when one becomes mentally ill. The only difference in this form of sickness and other forms is that science has only just begun its studies into cures for mental illness, and therefore it is widely misunderstood. But about half the cases of mental illness can be cured, and the people afflicted restored to completely normal life again, if proper treatment is provided. And no stigma should be attached to the treatment.

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1959 CARS

Once again we hear from Detroit that the automobile makers are expecting great things of their 1959 cars. Of course, we hear similar comment every year, and sometimes it means something, and sometimes it does not.

But this year the new cars are supposed to reach the market earlier than usual, and most of them will be on sale in October—with only a few exceptions. The auto makers are now predicting a sale of some five and a half million units in the coming year. That would beat this year's sales by about a million units.

The word from Detroit is that the 1959 models will be different enough to stimulate buying, although there is not going to be as much change in appearance—in many cases—as there was last fall.

The big question concerning 1959's models is going to be their cost. Manufacturers would like to increase the cost, especially if they sign an agreement with the United Automobile Workers' Union granting significant pay increases and fringe benefits. However, it is generally felt that American made cars are already "pricing themselves out of the market" and the public simply will not go along with the steady increase in the cost of transportation.

It is our opinion that the price of automobiles is already at a point discouraging buying. To support this, we note the rapid rise in sales of European automobiles. In 1954, there were 32,403 foreign-built cars registered in the United States. That was a negligible percentage. In 1955 there were 58,560, less than one per cent of the market. But in the past three years, the biggest thing in the automotive world has been the sensational increase in the number of foreign-built cars on American highways. In 1957, it was 206,800 cars, and as of now, it is estimated that the figure is nearly 400,000, and going up by leaps and bounds. If the trend continues, within five years, from one-fourth to one-third of the cars sold in America will be of this type, built overseas or at home. For example, in Norfolk, Va., in the first six months of 1958, a total of 525 of these small, economical foreign-built cars were sold. One owner bragged to the writer of this editorial, that he got "60 miles per gallon" from his attractively built foreign-made car.

And so, we come to the threshold of a new automotive year. It is important, because transportation is a vital phase of our economy, and the health of the automotive industry has a bearing on the economy of most every community in the land. It is our opinion that the automotive and allied industries must face up to the facts of life, and bring to the public a more economical car that can compete with the jobs turned out by our foreign competitors. If they don't, there is not much hope for an improvement in the Detroit employment picture.

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If the people who live in Appomattox do not care enough about their home town to trade at home, you can rest assured that no one else will care enough to trade here either.

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The trouble with human beings is not that they lack horse sense, but rather that so many of them lack human intelligence.

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To be a balanced citizen you must spend some time each day trying to keep up with the national and international news, even though you are more interested in the local scandal.

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Few resign from good paying jobs.

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Why teach everybody to read, unless he, or she, plans to read, and to read something worth reading?

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Hard work is not as tiring as incessantly thinking about your work.

Washington Notes

New Electronic Robot

The Navy has announced the partial development of an electronic robot which it says will be able to match some of the functions of the human brain.

It calls the robot a "perceptron." At least another year will be required to complete the first full pilot model, but its principle and concept already have been demonstrated successfully by using a large electronic computer.

When it is fully developed, the machine is expected to be able to perceive, recognize and identify its surroundings without any human training or control. It differs from the ordinary computer in that it does not have to be fed facts and figures in advance.

Radar Units Purchased

The Civil Aeronautics Administration announced the purchase of nineteen airport surveillance radar units for $5,928,000.

Texas Instruments, Inc., of Dallas, winner of the contract, will start deliveries at the rate of two a month in June, 1960.

The radar units will pick up aircraft at altitudes up to 27,000 feet, compared with the 23,000-foot capability limit of the units now in use at major airports.

The new equipment will be installed in airport traffic control towers, to provide assistance in controlling approaches and departures of civil and military aircraft.

Labor Report

The Labor Department has reported that fewer workers were made idle by strikes in May than in any other May since 1955. The 350 strikes that began during the month amounted to 20 per cent fewer than a year earlier. The figure was the second lowest for any May since the war. Only the 1948 total was lower.

Wheat Disease Reduced

One of the nation's worst wheat diseases, leaf rust, has been reduced from a severity of 73 per cent to a bare trace in crops of hybrid winter wheat.

While these results were obtained in experimental research, they are promising. Every year, in every wheat-producing state, leaf rust destroys between 5 and 30 per cent of the wheat crop.

The minimum time for a breeding cycle for wheat is eight years. It will be another five to twelve years before the farmer can expect to grow leaf-rust resistant wheat.

War Claims Plan Set

The Administration has sent to Congress a draft bill for the payment of American war damage claims against Germany and, to a smaller extent, against Japan.

Whitney Gilliland, chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, acting for the government, urged early and favorable action.

Mr. Gilliland said the bill was largely similar to previous government proposals.

Air Defense Contracts

The Army Signal Corps recently announced the award of contracts totaling $4,281,055 to the Hughes Aircraft Company, Fullerton, California, for modification and testing of anti-aircraft defense systems.

New Job Upturn

Continuing improvement in the job situation in June was reported by the Government.

With students entering the labor market in large numbers, the number of unemployed rose seasonally to 5,837,000, the highest of the recession and the highest since 1941.

But practically all the other figures in the monthly statistics used by the Commerce and Labor Departments were better than in May, which in turn had showed improvement over April.

AN EXPENSIVE LESSON

Louisville, Ky.- William Chasteen, 17, got his beginner's driver's permit recently and his first lesson cost $2,000.

Chasteen was driving the family car home, his father supervising the driving. The boy' lost control of the car. It hit another vehicle, jumped a curb, and plowed into a house.

Police estimated the damage at $2,000. Chasteen wasn't hurt.

Amphibious Mankind?

Los Angeles.- Space scientists are weighing the idea of trying to breed a special type of man or animal who could breathe water or gas instead of air.

In the place of lungs he might have gills like a fish. Or he might have lungs which could be filled temporarily with water and be converted back to air breathing later.

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VIRGINIA ELECTRIC and POWER COMPANY

. . . LEE AFTER APPOMATTOX . . .

...s of Local Editor on Memorial Day at Old Appomattox Court House.

...d at Request of American Legion Post 104.

...NOTE: The attached remarks on: "Lee After Appomattox" were delivered by Calvin H. Robinson, Editor and Publisher of The Times-Virginian, at the annual Memorial Day observance at the Old Appomattox Court House on June 1. The observance that year was sponsored jointly by the Appomattox Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Mr. Ivey Holt was the chairman, and the speaker was introduced by Mayor C. T. ...

...the occasion was the distinguished Congressman of the Fifth Virginia District, Hon. Watkins M. Abbitt, Mr. Abbitt's remarks have to extend his remarks in The Congressional Record of Wednesday, June 4, said: "Mr. Calvin H. Robinson, editor of the Times-Virginian, a weekly newspaper published at Appomattox, Va., and a student of the War Between the States, delivered a most interesting and informative memorial address. It was most fitting that he be heard on this occasion, as he has just recently been appointed by one of the advisors to the United States Civil War Centennial Commission."

...ly, at its meeting on June 23, 1958, American Legion Post 104, Appomattox, Va. adopted a resolution, asking that the remarks of Mr. Robinson on the above occasion be published in the Times-Virginian. In response to the kind sentiment expressed in this resolution, the said remarks are hereby offered for publication of this paper. The editor is very grateful to both Mr. Abbitt and to the American Legion Post 104, for the honor and commendation in the matter involved.

Calvin H. Robinson.

* * * * * * * * * * *

...and Dear Friends:

...for coming to our ...y, Mrs. Jerry Burks, ...the Appomattox Chapter ...ughters of the Confe...me that the sound ...ple had scarcely sub...ded before the good ...ade under the name ...s Memorial Associ...attox. The first me...ce on this sacred ...December 1, 1866, ...of re-interment of ...the last battle. The re...was conducted by the ...Leyburn and the ad...by the Hon L. D. ...Memorial Services ...that early ladies or...joined with others ...as one of the first ...the United Daughters ...federacy.

...my privilege to make ...on several previous ...y programs here. In ...manuscript which told ...ents taking place just ...Surrender on April 9, ...of Northern Virginia ...from fallen Richmond. ...er occasion, I at...scribe the events of ...ed. It would appear, ...it might be in order ...ence the sequence, and ...er indulgence while I ...things about Robert ...Appomattox.

...only known that neith...ant lingered at Appo...part in or witness ...ering down of arms. ...ching heavily and ...ow, so after a final ...April 10, Grant set out ...s, and Lee began the ...the rejoin his family in ...ars was drama in the ...four long years Vir...the invasion of both ...the 2,600 battles of the ...the States, 600 were ...Virginia soil. Virginia ...155,000 men. The ...the houseless chim...ned ruins and myriad ...grimly their story of ...of war. As of Jan...Virginia had fur...segments of infantry, 40 ...infantry, 20 regiments ...cy battalions of caval...batteries of artillery. ...slowly back to join ...with what memories ...can only guess.

...merican, Charles Fran...Post published a pre...entitled, "Lee at Ap...It is a quotation of ...in Richmond. It says: ...tion of the previous ...of those paroled had ...to Richmond. The ...a small group of ...peared on the further ...tattoos. By some ...tion, it was known ...Lee was among them, ...gathered all along the ...tables, silent and bare...he was no excitement, ...but as the great chief ...by, loving murmur, ...those, rose from the ...bowed. Taking off his ...gently bowing his head, ...in adversity passed ...the door; it closed ...the people had seen ...that time in battle ...

...Mrs. Lee was an ...she was to sur...by three years.

His fortune was lost. This great man of the renowned Lee family of Virginia, two of whose kinsmen had been Signers of the Declaration, whose father had been Governor of Virginia, himself of top rank in the Federal Army, Academy Superintendent, and most loved man of the South; this man whose wife was a great-granddaughter of Martha Washington, now faced an uncertain future. His property was confiscated. He was never again to see his beloved home at Arlington. His family was in need, and his rights as a citizen were lost.

What was he to do?

The record says that a large company offered him $75,000 a year salary to become its president, to which General Lee replied, "I have nothing to give the business but my name, and my name is not for sale."

His son, Capt. Robert Lee, wrote a book about his father and in it he states that General Lee was offered the vice chancellorship of the University of The South, at Sewanee, Tennessee, but declined on the ground that it was denominational. Capt. Lee also says that it was suggested that his father connect himself with the University of Virginia, but he objected that it was a state institution.

The Lee family moved out into Powhatan County.

And then the event happened that set up the post-war career of General Lee. And for that, permit me to recount a bit of history.

In the early days, there were no public schools, and academies for the training of boys sprang up. One such was started in the Valley of Virginia in the year 1749. It was named Liberty Hall Academy. It had varied fortune and moved its location, George Washington heard of the excellent work it was doing, and gave it a handsome endowment. It was located in Lexington, Virginia, and the name became Washington College.

In 1861, Washington College had an enrollment of 82. But like its neighbor, Virginia Military Institute, it suffered during the war years, and it appeared in mid-summer of 1865, that there would be a prospect of 22 students if it reopened.

On August 4, 1865, the Board of Trustees met. There was no president. Judge John W. Brockenbrough was Rector. It was decided to re-open and elect a president. Several names were proposed. Col. Bolivar Christian finally arose and mentioned that a friend of his had heard Miss Mary Lee say that although everyone had been most considerate of her father, that nothing had been offered him which he felt that he could accept. What follows is a fascinating, but a long story, but the point here is that little Washington College at Lexington offered General Lee the position of President, and he accepted. The word spread far and wide, and there was a rush for enrollment, many of the new students being former soldiers. On September 18, 1865, Lee rode into Lexington, on his famed horse, "Traveller." He was inaugurated October 2, insisting that there be no fanfare or speeches.

What followed is a treasure piece of American history. The school grew and prospered. But it was starting from scratch. There is a record that in 1866 a carpenter was asked to put some shelves in one of the rooms, on condition that he could await until the next session for his pay. But they wanted to use some of the first funds to build a home for the new President. Lee insisted that the first building project be to erect a college chapel. That was done, and it is under this chapel that the remains of Lee are today.

Loving testimony as to his proficiency is found in the letters and articles, written by his students.

The theme of Lee after Appomattox was that a great sense of honor and duty must be instilled in the new generation that was to rebuild the South. Daily, he sought to instill that sense. Professor Edward S. Joynes wrote of a student called to Lee's office to answer for absence. The student gave an excuse, and added another excuse, and was starting upon a third; when Lee broke in to say, "Stop, Mr. ——. One good reason should be sufficient for an honest mind." And another student was called to explain an absence. With his heart in his boots he entered Lee's office. The President rose and greeted him. He said, "Mr. ——, I am glad to see that you are better." "But, General, I have not been sick." "Ah," said Lee, "then I am glad to see that you have better news from home." "But, General," I have had no bad news from home.' Lee ended the interview by saying, "I took it for granted that nothing less than sickness or distressing news from home could have kept you from your duty." The student understood, and went on to become a distinguished lawyer.

A new roadway of broken stone was laid through the college grounds. One day Colonel J. T. L. Preston, of V. M. I., came riding through the grounds on his way to town. As the stones were new and rough, the Colonel rode alongside on the grass. As he approached to where Lee was standing, he paused to talk. Lee said, "Colonel, this is a beautiful horse; I am sorry he is so tenderfooted that he avoids our new road." Afterwards, Preston always rode on the stone road.

There are so many stories of great human interest concerning these short years of Lee after Appomattox. One day a former soldier rode into town and sought out the General. He stated that he had heard that Lee was in dire need, and although he had little to offer, would the General come up with him to his little home in the hills and he cared for? Lee was touched, and replied that everyone had been most kind and generous to him and that he was not in need. And then Lee added that, indeed, he had an extra suit of clothes, and he would like for his former soldier to have it. The soldier declined, but then came back and told his hero that he would accept the suit ——but only to keep it to be buried in.

So was he loved. The mass of evidence is that Lee after Appomattox set a magnificent example in the rebuilding of the South. Our honor and our sense of duty had not been surrendered, and was to become our salvation. So Lee taught, and those who heard believed. He proved that "misfortune nobly borne is good fortune." Ah yes, Judge Brockenbrough had ridden across the Blue Ridge on a borrowed horse, wearing a borrowed coat, using borrowed money for expenses, to ask Lee to come to Lexington. The salary was $1,500 a year, and the school was $4,000 in debt. But Lee accepted, and today not just Washington and Lee University, nor even the South alone, but the world is enriched in memory and inspiration by the sterling example of this peerless man.

It was Wednesday, the 22nd of September, 1870. At 4:00 o'clock, Lee attended a meeting of the vestry of Grace Episcopal Church. There had been one of the hardest rainfalls in Lexington's remembrance. The General sat in a damp and cold pew and the meeting lasted until seven. The church was in arrears in the salary of the minister. After all had given and every prospect exhausted, Lee inquired as to how much was lacking, and when informed said, "I will give that sum."

He returned home to find the family awaiting his arrival for tea. At the table he stood to return thanks. But it was in vain, for the words would not come. He sank into his chair, and the physicians were called. He lingered until October 12. He died as he had lived, the most peerless gentleman of them all, the ideal man, and the noblest inspiration God has given youth since the gift of His own Son. Note, will you, that his last public act was to sacrifice for his church, and his last private act was to pray. Surely his favorite prayer was:

"Father, put any burden on me, only sustain me;
Send me anywhere,
Only go with me;"

And now, my friends, it seems that the burden of my remarks rests on the theme that the example of Robert E. Lee after Appomattox should be a pattern for all citizens of all time and in all lands in the discharge of their duty. On this Memorial Day we mark that "the Hand that strikes no erring blow" entrusted to our South a fabulous heritage. Not only in the person of Robert E. Lee, but a heritage arising from the earliest days.

Our South was the place of the First Permanent English Settlement and set the pattern for Representative Government.

Our South gave us Patrick Henry to fan the flames of freedom, and then gave us George Washington to lead us to independence and become our First President, ever "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his country men." And lo, George Mason; the tremendous giant of his age, Thomas Jefferson; and Madison, Monroe, Marshall, and scores of others so lasting in their contribution to our nation that time will never cease to honor the very mention of their names.

The record is there. It is our heritage that our South gave us orators whose eloquence inspired humble citizens to become great heroes in the battle for freedom; statesmen whose wise counsel in times past and present blazed the trail to constitutional government.

Our South gave us women who established the Southern Home, preserved it in war and peace and justified a golden age of chivalry; a Christian faith that convicted the sinner, cheered the saints and comforted the bereaved; historians and poets whose matchless words have preserved our traditions and lent enchantment to the story of our past and hope for a proud tomorrow won out of the marrow of our own blood, sweat and toil.

And on Memorial Day, we salute these Our Hero Dead. Not just those who followed Lee and Jackson, but those who have rallied to the flag at every call.

Ah yes, in World War One, it was a son of Virginia and of the South who cried out that "the world must be made safe for democracy," and we treasure the memory of Woodrow Wilson.

And in World War Two, our South gave the great George C. Marshall as our chief. He came from the sacred halls of Virginia Military Institute, as had Stonewall Jackson before him, to guide our path to victory. And in all the annals of noble efforts, none surpasses that great 29th Division, made up largely of Southern boys, mostly from Virginia and Maryland, who stormed inland from the Beaches of Normandy under that peerless soldier, George S. Patton, who got his start, too, at V. M. I.

Our South, in the Korean episode, a native of Texas and a grandson of our own Appomattox County, General Walton Walker, was with that great 24th Division holding the front for democracy against communism.

Great memories, indeed, for Memorial Day. Great visions of grandeur from the past, of challenge for tomorrow.

To those who say that we have fallen upon lean times, and that we have lost the stamina of our fathers, the character of the past, and that there will never be another Washington, Lee, or Jackson, I point the finger and say, Take heed, ... "put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground," and the God of our Fathers is with us yet.

Faintly Acid Comment

"What I want to see," said the unmentioned girl in the beauty contest, "is a group photograph of the judges' wives."

Scotch

Three blood transfusions were necessary to save a lady patient's life at a hospital. A brawny young Scotchman offered his blood.

The patient gave him $50 for the first pint, $25 for the second pint —but the third time she had so much Scotch blood in her she only thanked him.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year; payable in advance.

Farmers conclude harvesting a fine wheat crop.

Bidault pledges new party to keep Algeria French.

KNOW THE WEATHER

By E. H. Sims

What is the difference between a waterspout and a whirlpool?

A waterspout is nothing less than a tornado over water. It is a fearsome sight but one which, fortunately, is rarely encountered. Contrary to the common belief, the waterspout does not suck water up great distances from the ocean, or lake.

Rather, the spout is composed of moist, whirling air, which gives off a dark appearance, but which is not really water being sucked upward into the air.

A whirlpool is a circular movement of water caused by currents, sometimes by wind. They are almost always harmless. Exceptions are whirlpools caused by very strong natural or artificial currents, which can quickly endanger a swimmer, and which should be carefully avoided.

JITTERY JOB

Garberville, Calif. Firemen stepped gingerly recently as they fought a blaze at the snake pit, a reptile garden on Highway 101, 18 miles from Garberville.

The structure burned to the ground, killing dozens of deadly snakes, including cobras, rattlers, and boa constrictors.

Owner Tex Cordell estimated damage at $10,000. His entire collection was destroyed.

There were no human injuries —and no snake bites among the nervous firemen.

Virginia ranks third in the nation among apple producing states, according to the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, Richmond. The Commonwealth has an average production of between nine and ten million bushels per year.

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From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Curly "Eggs" 'Em In

Well, we've had drive-in restaurants, drive-in movies, drive-in banks. Now a drive-in eggery. It was inevitable.

Curly Rice and his Missus have sold eggs retail at their place for some time. "But all that running back and forth," exclaims Mrs. Rice, "it fairly wore you out."

"So we set aside one room for the egg business. We enlarged a window about car height, and circled the driveway past it. It's efficient—but it cuts 'visiting' with customers and you know how I love to talk!"

From where I sit, I'll go along with Curly's wife—because there's nothing like good talk between good neighbors—especially when there's a healthy difference of opinions. Now you might like some cider to help the conversation along—I happen to prefer a glass of beer. As long as we agree on our right to disagree what does it matter?

Joe Marsh

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